

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 122831

R 211230Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7754

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 0397

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SU

SUBJ: POSSIBLE INCREASED BRITISH AID TO SUDANESE MILITARY

1. GENERAL SIR CECIL BLACKER, ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE BRITISH ARMY, CURRENTLY VISITING SUDAN. ACCORDING PRESS, HE WILL HAVE MILITARY TALKS WITH LT. GENERAL BASHIR MUHAMMAD ALI, GOS CHIEF OF STAFF, ON FEB 22 CONCERNING MILITARY RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY TRAINING OF SUDANESE IN UK.

2. BRITISH AMBASSADOR PHILLIPS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON FEB 20 THAT GENERAL BLACKER'S VISIT (HE IS VISITING ONLY THE SUDAN) WAS ARRANGED IN AN EFFORT TO IMPORVE SUDANESE/BRITISH RELATIONS. NOTING THAT THERE IS AT PRESENT A "VACUUM" IN TERMS OF FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR THE SUDANESE MILITARY, PHILLIPS EXPRESSED PERSONAL HOPE THAT HMG WOULD BE ABLE OFFER GREATER ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT GENERAL BLACKER IS NOT REPEAT NOT HERE FOR SPECIFIC NEGOTIATIONS.

3. COMMENT. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, BRITISH ALREADY HAVE MISSION HERE AT SUDANESE OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL. SINCE THE SUDANESE ARE NO LONGER RELYING ON THE USSR FOR MAJOR ITEMS OF NEW EQUIPMENT, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR THE BRITISH TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE, ASSUMING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN WHITEHALL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY LONDON'S COMMENT ON THE LATTER POINT. AS FAR AS CONFIDENTIAL

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WE AWARE, GOS HAS NEVER TAKEN UP LONG-PENDING BRITISH OFFER

SELL LIMITED NUMBER MILITARY ITEMS ON COMMERCIAL CREDIT.

BREWER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY TRAINING, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY VISITS, MILITARY MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1974
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KHARTO00397
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740218/aaaaarfq.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE INCREASED BRITISH AID TO SUDANESE MILITARY
TAGS: MARR, MASS, SU, UK, (BLACKER, CECIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005